



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Donald L. Nisley, et al.

Serial No.: 09/938,793

Filed: August 24, 2001

For: SEALING SYSTEM FOR BEARING
ASSEMBLY

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Group Art Unit: 3683

Examiner: Torres, Melanie

Atty Docket: DODG:0044/YOD
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Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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April 30, 2003
Date

Carla D. Doherty

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 13, and 22 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A bearing assembly, comprising:
a bearing insert;
a bearing housing adapted to house the bearing insert;
a cover removably securable to the bearing housing; and
a rotatable flinger secured to the cover, the rotatable flinger comprising:

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a first opening therethrough, the first opening being adapted to receive a rotatable shaft and to enable the rotatable flinger to form a compression seal against the rotatable shaft; and
an outer flange disposed external to the cover to fling material that comes into contact with the outer flange away from the bearing assembly.

2. (Amended) The bearing assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rotatable flinger has an inner flange, the inner and outer flanges having a greater diameter than a second opening through the cover, the inner and outer flanges cooperating with a portion of the cover surrounding the second opening to secure the rotatable flinger to the cover.

7. (Amended) The bearing assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the bearing insert comprises a plurality of roller bearings.

13. (Amended) A sealing assembly for forming a seal between a bearing assembly and a rotatable shaft, comprising:

a cover removably securable to a bearing housing; and
a rotatable member securable to the cover and adapted to receive the rotatable shaft therethrough, the rotatable member being configured to form a seal against the rotatable shaft and to rotate therewith to fling liquids or solids that come into contact with the rotatable member away from the cover.

22. (Amended) A method of assembling a bearing assembly for supporting a rotatable shaft, comprising the acts of:

engaging a rotatable shaft with a flinger operable to rotate with the rotatable shaft and form a compression seal therewith;
positioning the rotatable shaft through a portion of a bearing insert;
rotatably securing the flinger to a removable cover by disposing the cover between an inner flanged portion of the flinger and an outer flanged portion of the flinger; and
securing the cover to a bearing housing.

REMARKS

In view of the amendments set forth above, the Applicant-respectfully-requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 30, 2003



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 13, and 22 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A bearing assembly, comprising:
a bearing insert;
a bearing housing adapted to house the bearing insert;
a cover removably securable to the bearing housing; and
a rotatable flinger secured to the cover, the rotatable flinger having comprising:
a first opening therethrough, the first opening being adapted to receive a the
rotatable shaft and to enable the rotatable flinger to form a compression seal against the rotatable
shaft; and
an outer flange disposed external to the cover to fling material that comes into
contact with the outer flange away from the bearing assembly.
2. (Amended) The bearing assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rotatable
flinger has an inner flange ~~and an outer flange~~, the inner and outer flanges having a greater diameter
than a second opening through the cover, the inner and outer flanges cooperating with a portion of
the cover surrounding the second opening to secure the rotatable flinger to the cover.
7. (Amended) The bearing assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein the bearing
insert comprises a plurality of roller bearings.
13. (Amended) A sealing assembly for forming a seal between a bearing assembly
and a rotatable shaft, comprising:
a cover removably securable to a bearing housing; and

a rotatable member securable to the cover and adapted to receive the rotatable shaft therethrough, the rotatable member being configured to form a seal against the rotatable shaft and to rotate therewith to fling liquids or solids that come into contact with the rotatable member away from the cover-bearing assembly.

22. (Amended) A method of assembling a bearing assembly for supporting a rotatable shaft, comprising the acts of:

engaging a rotatable shaft with a flinger operable to rotate with the rotatable shaft and form a compression seal therewith;

positioning the rotatable shaft through a portion of a bearing insert;

rotatably securing the flinger to a removable cover by disposing the cover between an inner flanged portion of the flinger and an outer flanged portion of the flinger; and

securing the cover to a bearing housing.